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Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 20

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE ASIAN-AFRICAN LEGAL CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/1 of 17 October 1988 and covers co-operative activities of the two organizations during the period under review.

A. Co-operative framework

2. Pursuant to the co-operation programme drawn up in 1987, consultations have been routinely conducted on matters of common interest between the secretariat of the Asian-African Legal Consultative Committee and the competent offices and organs of the United Nations regarding, in particular, representation at meetings and sessions and exchange of documentation and information, as well as the identification of areas where the supportive role of the Consultative Committee might be most productive. Those consultations have assisted the Consultative Committee to orient its work programme, to accord priority to matters that are of current interest to the United Nations, and to initiate activities with a view to strengthening the role of the United Nations. Those activities involved not only its own membership, but also interested States Members of the United Nations from other continents. The areas of co-operation have been enlarged to cover matters in the economic and humanitarian fields in addition to the progressive development and codification of international law.

B. Representation at meetings and conferences

3. The Consultative Committee was represented at various meetings and conferences held under the auspices of the United Nations and its organs during the period under review, which included the regular sessions of the General Assembly,

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the International Law Commission, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, and the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. It was also represented at meetings of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

4. The Chairman of the International Law Commission and officials representing the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Secretariat, UNCITRAL, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) attended the twenty-eighth session of the Consultative Committee, held at Nairobi in February 1989.

5. The Chairman of the International Law Commission, the Chairman of the Sixth Committee of the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Registrar of the International Court of Justice, officials representing the United Nations, UNCITRAL and UNHCR attended the twenty-ninth session of the Consultative Committee, held at Beijing in March 1990.

C. Efforts towards strengthening the role of the United Nations through rationalization of functional modalities

6. As a part of its contribution to the commemoration of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations, the Consultative Committee secretariat prepared in 1985 a study entitled "Strengthening the role of the United Nations through rationalization of functional modalities with special reference to the General Assembly" (A/40/726 and Corr.1, annex). The study presented an overall assessment of the functioning of the United Nations focusing attention on certain specific matters and issues. Subsequently the Consultative Committee prepared a set of recommendations on the improvement of the functioning of the General Assembly (see A/41/437, annex). The Consultative Committee continues to follow up the implementation of the resolutions relating to strengthening of the role of the United Nations through rationalization of its functional modalities as well as the progress on various other related proposals.

7. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/23 of 17 November 1989, in which the Assembly declared the period 1990-1999 as the United Nations Decade of International Law, the Consultative Committee secretariat prepared a reply focusing on the major issues involved and the proposed activities for the decade (see A/45/430, annex II). At its twenty-ninth session, the Consultative Committee urged greater collaboration with the United Nations in this regard.

D. Promoting wider use of the International Court of Justice

8. At the fortieth session of the General Assembly, the Consultative Committee prepared a study on the question of possible wider use of the International Court of Justice through special agreements (see A/40/682, annex). The study focused attention on the advantages to be gained by using the Court or its Special Chamber in preference to using ad hoc arbitral tribunals. The Consultative Committee secretariat continued to conduct consultations with the Registrar of the Court on this subject. In this context, it should be mentioned that the Consultative Committee has submitted a reply in response to the Secretary-General's request for information on the implementation of the Manila Declaration on the Peaceful Settlement of Disputes between States (Assembly resolution 37/10, annex) and on ways and means of increasing the effectiveness of this instrument (see A/45/436).

E. Measures designed to further the work of the Sixth Committee

9. Pursuant to its programme of rendering assistance to its member States for active participation in the work of the General Assembly, the Consultative Committee has, since 1982, prepared notes and comments on items before the Sixth Committee, including the report of the International Law Commission. Consultations have also been held from time to time during the General Assembly session between the representatives of member States of the Consultative Committee and other interested Governments to exchange views on matters of mutual interest. The informal consultation of the Consultative Committee's member States has been scheduled for October 1990 to consider some selected matters of immediate concern.

10. The Consultative Committee has continued to maintain its links with the International Law Commission. Its current work programme includes the question of non-navigational uses of international watercourses and jurisdictional immunities of States - two subjects that are under consideration by the Commission. During the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, the Consultative Committee, in collaboration with the Commission, organized a seminar in New York mainly for consideration of those two topics. The Commission's special rapporteurs in charge of these topics and legal advisers of member States participated in the seminar.

11. Collaboration has continued between the Consultative Committee and UNCITRAL. A regional seminar on international trade law, organized in collaboration with UNCITRAL, was held at New Delhi in October 1989 and the proceedings of that seminar have been published by the Consultative Committee. The UNCITRAL Model Law on International Commercial Arbitration was recommended for favourable consideration of the Consultative Committee's member Governments. The Consultative Committee has also made recommendation for the wider acceptance of the United Nations Convention on the Limitation Period in the International Sale of Goods, 1974; the United Nations Convention on Contracts for the International Sale of Goods, 1980; and the United Nations Convention on the Carriage of Goods by Sea, 1978 (Hamburg Rules).

F. Measures for the promotion of ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

12. The question of encouraging and facilitating the ratification of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has been under consideration by the Consultative Committee. Its member States signatories to the Convention have been urged to ratify it in order to allow early implementation of the Convention. The Consultative Committee has also made an appeal to all other States to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention at the earliest possible date. At its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions, the Consultative Committee discussed the matters relating to the work of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea. A sub-committee on the law of the sea has been reactivated and the Consultative Committee secretariat is preparing a study on joint ventures and other core issues being considered by the Preparatory Commission. The Consultative Committee intends to co-operate with the Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea on matters relating to implementation of the law of the sea Convention, particularly in regard to national legislation on marine affairs. A colloquium on joint ventures and other issues took place in New York in August during the session of the Preparatory Commission.

G. International economic co-operation for development

13. Since the eleventh special session of the General Assembly, held in 1980, the Consultative Committee has concentrated on the question of international economic co-operation for development and to this end it has participated in the sessions and meetings of the Economic and Social Council, UNCTAD and UNCITRAL. Various suggestions have been put forward for the consideration of member States of the Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee has prepared model bilateral agreements for promotion and protection of investments so as to generate a wider flow of capital and technology to the developing countries of the Asian-African region. Steps are being taken for promoting wider appreciation of the model agreements among the Governments of the Asian-African region.

14. Another initiative taken by Consultative Committee in this context is the preparation of a legal framework for industrial joint ventures. It has begun to compile relevant information on the subject so as to prepare a legal guide book.

15. The Consultative Committee has formulated a scheme for settlement of disputes in economic and commercial transactions. Three regional centres for arbitration under the scheme have been established at Kuala Lumpur, Cairo and Lagos. One of the objectives of those centres is to help in the promotion and implementation of the UNCITRAL arbitration rules. Negotiations are under way concerning the establishment of another regional arbitration centre at Tehran, intended primarily for oil arbitrations.

16. Following a feasibility study of the Consultative Committee on the creation of a centre for research and development of legal régimes applicable to economic activities in developing countries, which was submitted at

the twenty-ninth session, the Consultative Committee secretariat is currently preparing a further study on how to strengthen its capabilities to collect and disseminate information and data from various United Nations agencies such as UNCTAD, UNIDO, UNCITRAL, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and other bodies, including the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and the Hague Conference on Private International Law.

17. The Consultative Committee has considered the question of debt burden of developing countries since its Kathmandu (twenty-fourth) session in 1985. Pursuant to a decision taken at its Singapore (twenty-seventh) session in 1988, a note entitled "Legal Aspects of International Loan Agreements" was circulated to the entire membership of the Group of 77. At its twenty-ninth session, the Consultative Committee secretariat was authorized to continue to monitor developments in this field, including the difficulties faced by developing countries in negotiating the rescheduling of loans, and to formulate a set of legal principles and guidelines on the subject.

H. Question of refugees

18. In co-operation with UNHCR, the Consultative Committee has, since 1964, been actively engaged in the study of refugee law and refugee problems. Its work on these subjects led to the adoption of its Bangkok Principles in 1966 and an addendum thereto in 1970. This pattern of co-operation was reactivated following the adoption by the General Assembly of its resolution 36/38 of 18 November 1981, and the Consultative Committee decided at its Tokyo session in 1983 to place again the item of refugees on its agenda. The deliberations at that session paved the way for closer co-operation between the Consultative Committee and UNHCR. At its Kathmandu (twenty-fourth) and Arusha (twenty-fifth) sessions in 1985 and 1986 respectively, the Consultative Committee gave detailed consideration to the "principle of burden-sharing". A consensus was reached at the twenty-fifth session that the concept of burden-sharing had become through the practice of States "a principle of humanitarian refugee law".

19. At its Bangkok (twenty-sixth) session in 1987, the Consultative Committee adopted another addendum to its Bangkok Principles of 1966, which elaborated the concept of burden-sharing. The Consultative Committee also examined the question of state responsibility in regard to refugees. At its twenty-fifth session, in 1986, the Consultative Committee secretariat was asked to examine the concept of safety zone for the displaced person in the country of origin. During its twenty-sixth and twenty-seventh sessions, in 1987 and 1988, the Consultative Committee held general discussions on the legal status of such a safety zone and the circumstances under which a safety zone could be established in the country of origin of refugees or displaced persons. Currently, the Consultative Committee secretariat is re-examining the definition of the term "refugee" and is also preparing a compendium of legal principles and case law on various issues relating to refugees, including the concept of "well founded fear of persecution". At its twenty-ninth session, the Consultative Committee Secretariat was mandated to prepare a study on the rights and duties of refugees as well as on the obligation of States towards refugees. The Consultative Committee secretariat also intends to

organize a seminar in collaboration with UNHCR to promote the adherence to the United Nations conventions relating to refugees.

I. Zones of peace and international co-operation

20. At its twenty-fourth session, the Consultative Committee took up for consideration the concept and the legal framework of a zone of peace. At the twenty-fifth session, it was decided that an expert group would consider the contents and implications of various proposals made within and outside the United Nations regarding the establishment of peace zones. A study on the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace was considered by the member States at the twenty-ninth session and the subject remains on the agenda. The Consultative Committee secretariat was requested to establish close co-operation in this regard with the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean.

21. The Consultative Committee has included in its work programme a topic entitled "Elements of a legal instrument on friendly and good-neighbourly relations of States in Asia, Pacific and the African region". At its twenty-ninth session, the Committee had before it a report that examined the relevance of certain principles: sovereign equality of States; the non-use of force or threat of force; peaceful settlement of disputes; respect for territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers; the promotion of collective security; and disarmament and state responsibility.

J. Illicit traffic in narcotic drugs

22. Pursuant to a decision taken at the twenty-fourth session, the Consultative Committee secretariat prepared a study on the efforts within the United Nations in the field of international control of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. This study was submitted to the General Assembly on the occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations. The Consultative Committee is concerned with the menace of illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and intends to take up this matter actively in the near future.

K. Other issues currently before the Consultative Committee

23. At its Singapore (twenty-seventh) session in 1988, the Consultative Committee included an item on its agenda entitled "Criteria for the distinction between terrorism and the people's struggle for liberation". Subsequently, the subject was discussed at the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions of the Committee. The Consultative Committee secretariat was requested to work in close co-ordination with the Sixth Committee of the United Nations where a similar item has been under consideration. A report by the Consultative Committee on this subject has been submitted to the General Assembly.

24. At its twenty-seventh session an item "Deportation of Palestinians as a violation of international law, particularly the 1949 Geneva Convention" was

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included in the agenda of the session. In its subsequent sessions, the Consultative Committee considered various aspects of the question, including the customary and codified law relating to occupied territories, the duties of the occupying Power and the question of payment of compensation to Palestinians. The Consultative Committee secretariat is preparing a further study on all legal aspects of the matter, including the issue of resettlement in violation of international law, by Israel, of large numbers of former Soviet Jews into Palestine.

25. An item entitled "Transboundary movement of hazardous wastes and their disposal" has been included in the Committee's work programme since 1989. In March 1989, the Consultative Committee was represented at the Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Control of Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, convened under the aegis of UNEP. The study prepared by the Consultative Committee secretariat on the Basel Convention was considered by the Legal Advisers of its member States in the course of their meeting held at the United Nations in New York in October 1989.

26. At its twenty-ninth session, the Consultative Committee directed the secretariat to undertake a study on co-operation between the Asian-African countries to ban the dumping of toxic and other wastes into their countries and to co-operate in the formulation of regional or sub-regional conventions banning the dumping of toxic and other wastes. The Consultative Committee secretariat continues to be actively associated with UNEP, IMO and other organizations involved in this subject. The Consultative Committee is also involved in the work of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

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Agenda item 86 (b)

SPECIAL ECONOMIC AND DISASTER RELIEF ASSISTANCE: SPECIAL PROGRAMMES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

Assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In its resolution 44/177 of 19 December 1989, the General Assembly, taking note of Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/2 of 12 May 1989, expressed deep concern about the devastation in Djibouti caused by the unprecedented torrential rains and floods of April 1989. It noted that thousands of dwellings had been destroyed and major sectors of the national infrastructure had been disrupted, including severe damage to the scarce agricultural resources of Djibouti and a considerable loss of livestock. It called upon the Secretary-General, in close co-operation with the concerned organizations of the United Nations system and Government authorities, to carry out an evaluation of the requirements of Djibouti with a view to drawing up an urgent programme of rehabilitation and reconstruction following the damage to the infrastructure of the country, and requested him to report to it at its forty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.

2. The present report has been prepared in response to that request.

I. BACKGROUND

3. The Republic of Djibouti, with an area of 23,200 square kilometres, has a population of approximately 460,000 people. The country is located in the eastern part of the Sahelian steppes, bordering Ethiopia in the north, west and south, and Somalia in the south-east. Its climate is the most arid in the Sudano-Sahelian region. The average precipitation per annum is between 100 mm and 300 mm, depending on the altitude. The influx of people from neighbouring countries and their sedentary nature have put increasing pressure on the country's scarce land and increased the negative impact of natural disasters.

4. In early April 1989, exceptional heavy rain exceeding 500 mm in three days caused flooding in Djibouti, affecting about 250,000 people, of whom 150,000 were made homeless. The effects of the floods in the country, which is classified as one of the least developed countries, were extremely serious. A major portion of the nation's social and economic infrastructure was destroyed, resulting in a severe setback to the country's development efforts.

II. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY RELIEF

5. On 8 April, the Government of Djibouti declared a state of emergency, mobilized the nation to assist the victims, and called for the assistance of the international community. On 10 April, at the request of the Government, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO) launched an appeal for international assistance, indicating the relief and medical supplies urgently needed. Many countries responded immediately and dispatched relief materials, food, medical supplies and health equipment, some Governments also provided specialized personnel for relief operations.

6. On 25 April, new rains flooded again Djibouti. An UNDRO-chartered aircraft lifted 40 motor-pumps, 12 km of flexible pipes, 150 family kits and 2,000 kg of high-protein biscuits from its warehouse at Pisa, Italy. This operation was made possible by a grant of $US 500,000 from the Government of Italy.

7. The stagnant water provided ideal breeding for mosquitoes, with a danger of an outbreak of malaria. At the request of the Government of Djibouti, UNDRO chartered a light aircraft to carry out an anti-malaria spraying operation throughout the country. This operation was co-sponsored by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Fund of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and carried out in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO).

III. MITIGATION MEASURES

8. On 1 June 1989, UNDRO received a request from the Government of Djibouti for assistance to strengthen its institution dealing with disaster management and to assist in the updating of the ORSEC (Organisation des secours) national plan. In response to this request, UNDRO sent a consultant on mission to the country from 26 November to 10 December 1989, financed by the UNDP office in Djibouti with the following terms of reference:

(a) To revise the ORSEC emergency plan;

(b) To review human resources and relief requirements in case of disaster;

(c) To identify the responsibilities of different government agencies in case of emergency;

(d) To establish emergency co-ordination mechanisms and decision-making bodies;

(e) To recommend improvements in the methodology of disaster management and institutional policy;

(f) To propose procedures for the procurement of relief supplies and required equipment;

(g) To prepare the outline of an emergency management handbook for the officials of the responsible government bodies;

(h) To prescribe a methodology for the evaluation of the damage caused by disasters;

(i) To introduce a methodology of analysis for the economic repercussions of disastrous events in the country.

9. The report of the mission came to the following conclusions:

(a) The improvement of drainage and sanitation in the more flood-prone parts of the country was a necessity for the mitigation of future disasters;

(b) Improvements should be made in the general organization of relief efforts, in matters of technical training, and in the implementation of a programme to provide basic equipment for flood mitigation.

10. The loss-reduction strategies and the increasing technical knowledge now available, which can benefit countries such as Djibouti, are recognized in resolution 42/169 of 11 December 1987, in which the General Assembly designated the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction. In that resolution, the Assembly called upon the international community, under the auspices of the United Nations, to pay special attention to fostering international co-operation in the field of mitigation of the effects of natural disasters.

IV. RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

A. Action taken by the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat

11. The subject of assistance for the reconstruction and development of Djibouti was included in the agenda of the third meeting of the Senior Officials Consultative Group on the Horn of Africa, which was held in Nairobi on 9 April 1990, to discuss ways and means of co-ordinating actions and resolving operational problems that were impeding the effective response of the United Nations system to the emergency situation in the sub-region. The meeting took note of the adverse impact that the emergency situation in neighbouring countries was having on Djibouti's social and economic infrastructure, as explained by the UNDP

Resident Representative in Djibouti, who was invited to address the Consultative Group. A large influx of externally displaced persons had put great pressure on Djibouti's limited resources. The Consultative Group took note of a request made by the Government of Djibouti for assistance from UNHCR and the World Food Programme (WFP) to the displaced people and the economically disadvantaged Djiboutians affected by the emergency situation.

B. Action taken by the United Nations Development Programme

12. In compliance with General Assembly resolution 44/177, UNDP has been intensifying its efforts to mobilize all possible assistance to help the Government of Djibouti in the design and implementation of its reconstruction and development programmes. UNDP is financing a feasibility study aimed at developing a replicable low-cost housing scheme, which could be financed with the initial support of the United Nations Capital Development Fund. Consultations are taking place with the World Bank with regard to the co-financing of a project aimed at national capacity-building in macro-economic planning. Similar arrangements are under discussion with the Islamic Development Bank for the co-financing of an integrated rural development programme for the Goubad region.

13. Additional resources are also being made available to Djibouti through the UNDP Management Development Programme and the Special Measures Fund for Least Developed Countries. These facilities will support the Government in its effort to enhance the policy environment needed to attract private investment and to improve water management through the elaboration of a comprehensive water master plan.

C. Action taken by the Economic Commission for Africa

14. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has been assisting Djibouti in the following areas:

(a) Agriculture: the Agriculture Divisions of ECA undertook two missions to Djibouti in 1989. One was to evaluate the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development in Djibouti while the other one was to review the agricultural research needs of the country and to provide advice on measures for improving the effectiveness of national agricultural research;

(b) Transport and communications: a training programme designed to improve the professional and managerial competence of senior and middle-level personnel responsible for port organization planning and management was provided to Djibouti port officials in 1989. Also, various missions regarding the infrastructural improvement of highways in Djibouti were undertaken;

(c) Industry: a mission was sent to Djibouti to advise in the development of small-scale industries and the building of technological capability;

(d) Population: several missions were sent to Djibouti to assist the Government in reformulating projects relating to intercensus surveys;

(e) Programmes for women: Djibouti, along with other countries of the eastern and southern African subregions, was earmarked for assistance in national programming exercises, with a view to incorporating women's concerns in mainstream plans, programmes and projects;

(f) Treatment of statistical data: several missions were sent to Djibouti to advise and follow up on activities related to the treatment of demographic statistical data, on the preparation of a methodology for maintaining national accounts, and to evaluate Djibouti's economic performance;

(g) Other global issues: Djibouti was assisted by ECA in the preparation of a country paper for the Second United Nations Conference on Least Developed Countries, which was scheduled to take place in Paris from 3 to 14 September 1990.

V. CONCLUSIONS

15. In response to General Assembly resolution 44/177, UNDRO and other United Nations bodies actively pursued measures to alleviate the suffering caused by the disastrous floods that occurred in Djibouti in April 1989. UNDRO launched an international appeal for emergency relief supplies for the affected population in the country, which generated assistance from many Governments and other donors.

16. As to mitigation efforts, UNDRO mounted a consultancy mission to Djibouti towards the end of 1989 in order to enhance prevention and preparedness measures in the country.

17. Concerning reconstruction and development, both ECA and the Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Co-operation, Decolonization and Trusteeship of the Secretariat launched programmes to improve the capabilities of Djibouti in several specific areas.

18. Thus, a beginning has been made in response to the resolution in question to enhance the capability of Djibouti to deal with disasters in the future. UNDRO will continue to monitor the situation in the country and will continue to propose other programmes to be carried out for this purpose.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Items 23, 35 and 77 of the provisional agenda*
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 14 September 1990 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am instructed by the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, which has the powers and responsibilities of the Provisional Government of Palestine, to bring the following to your immediate attention:

3 September 1990 marked the one thousandth day of the intifadah: one thousand days of resistance by the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation of the territory of the State of Palestine, including Jerusalem. It is also a thousand days of suffering, pain, denial, through the gross violations by the occupying Power, Israel, of the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Such violations have reached the following toll throughout the intifadah, beginning 9 December 1987 up till the end of July 1990:

- Killings of unarmed Palestinian men, women and children total 1,300, of whom 300 were children under the age of 16 years;

- Injuries have reached 97,350 Palestinians;

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

- Imprisonment and detentions have reached 85,000;

- Tear-gas related miscarriages, 7,000;

- Expulsions of 59 + 256 families;

- Confiscation of land: 10,000 dunums in 1988;
  70,000 dunums in 1989;

- Uprooting of fruit trees: 190,000 trees.

In addition, the hampering of the Palestinian education system, by the continuing closure of Palestinian schools and universities and most recently, on 5 September 1990, the Israeli occupying Power ordered all schools to be surrounded with barbed wire. The stealing of water resources, denying the Palestinians access to sufficient amounts of water, and the high taxation and tax raids are still continuing practices.

Most recently, and just in the past few months, Israel, the occupying Power, continues to escalate its aggression and violence at an alarming rate. The Palestinians living under Israeli occupation are being subjected to an increase in land confiscations. In the month of June alone 210,000 dunums of land were confiscated from two villages in the Khalil and Bethlehem areas. This is three times more than all land confiscated in the entire occupied territories in 1980. This recent dramatic increase in confiscation appears to be in line with the new Israeli Government's plan for a greater "Eretz Israel".

Furthermore, for three months the village of Azmout/Nablus has suffered from restrictions on its water supply. Settlers from nearby Elon Mereh have cut off supply at one of the valves in the main pipe leading to the village. The village of Za'atra/Bethlehem suffered a similar disruption of its water supply, and as for Elizariyeh/Jerusalem its water supply was reduced by 75 per cent at one point during the month of July.

On 10 September 1990, Israel, the occupying Power, committed the following through its aggressive and violent actions against the Palestinians. It is worth noting that the list of injured Palestinians is the outcome of only one day of violence and beatings by Israeli soldiers:

In Jabalia Camp:

- Mouyasser Alizleh, 38 years old, suffered a broken spine;

- Mouhamed Abu Zaiter, 19 years, suffered a broken right arm;

- Khalal Al-Rahim, 13 years, and Fakhair Abu Al-Ibs, 12 years, both suffered severe bruises;

- Zahieh Ahmad Yacoub, 28 years, miscarried in her first trimester of pregnancy as a result of beatings.

In Shati' Camp:

- Naiman Al-Bayed, 45 years, and Hiba Abu Naji, 8 years, suffered severe injuries as a result of beatings.

In Gaza City:

- Ala Shakour, 13 years
- Ahmed Farineh, 10 years
- Samara Al-Deiry, 14 years
- Tawfiq Al-Deiry, 45 years
- Mouhamed Koueid, 14 years
- Bassam Thaher, 18 years
- Iman Bassal, 10 years

All of the above suffered broken bones as a result of beatings;

- Sabiha Mohamed, 22 years, miscarried in her first trimester of pregnancy.

A total of 25 additional Palestinians were injured as a result of beatings in Bureij Camp and Khan Younis Camp, also during the same day.

The world community has time and time again called upon Israel, the occupying Power, to desist from its illegal actions and to respect the internationally recognized principles of human rights and international law. Yet Israel persists its violations by continuing to occupy the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem.

Palestine calls upon the Secretary-General and the Security Council of the United Nations to take all appropriate and necessary measures to bring an end to the violent and illegal actions of Israel as well as to ensure respect for the Charter of the United Nations.

Such an end could be achieved only by the termination of Israeli occupation and withdrawal of troops and the free exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination.

At this point in time, Palestine asserts that the Security Council is duty bound to facilitate the convening of the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, in conformity with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 23, 35 and 77 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Zuhdi Labib TERZI
Permanent Observer of Palestine
to the United Nations

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17 September 1990

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Forty-fifth session
Item 119 of the provisional agenda*

QUESTION OF EAST TIMOR

Progress report of the Secretary-General

1. In my last progress report (A/44/524), dated 14 September 1989, I recalled that, within the context of my efforts to facilitate a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question of East Timor, Indonesia and Portugal had agreed in principle that a delegation from the Portuguese Parliament would undertake a visit to the territory in order to obtain first-hand information. I further reported that the two sides were considering the terms of reference and modalities of such a visit.

2. Since then, there have been seven rounds of the substantive talks between Indonesia and Portugal under my auspices. These talks are continuing in a constructive and serious manner, and I am encouraged by the considerable progress that has been made so far. I have reassured the two sides that I will make every effort to assist them in the realization of the proposed visit, for it is my belief that this visit could help to create an atmosphere conducive to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution.

3. During the year, I and Under-Secretary-General Rafeeuddin Ahmed, who has been assisting me in these endeavours, have continued our consultations with the two Governments. Discussions were held with the Portuguese President, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and with the Indonesian President and Foreign Minister, as well as with other Indonesian Ministers. In July, I also addressed personal messages to the Presidents of Indonesia and Portugal. Both countries have given me assurances of their continued commitment to achieving a comprehensive and internationally acceptable solution to the question. I therefore hope that it will prove possible through continued consultation and negotiation to attain that goal.

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

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REPORT OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Assistance to refugees in Somalia

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 44/152 of 15 December 1989 on assistance to refugees in Somalia, the General Assembly called upon the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Food Programme (WFP) to resume their assistance programmes for the refugees in the north-west districts of Somalia as soon as possible. It also requested the Secretary- General, in close co-operation with UNHCR, WFP and the donor community, to launch an interim assistance programme that would ensure that essential food and other humanitarian supplies continued to reach the refugee settlements in the north-west districts of Somalia until such time as a more permanent arrangement could be made.

2. The General Assembly requested the pertinent organizations of the United Nations system, namely the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), as well as the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and WFP, to prepare, in consultation with the Government of Somalia, detailed project documentation for the implementation of those projects and activities identified in the report of the Secretary-General (A/42/645) as priority endeavours for a complete programme of action.

3. The present report is submitted by the Secretary-General in response to the General Assembly's request that it be informed of the progress achieved in the implementation of the resolution.

II. BACKGROUND

4. All of the refugees hosted in Somalia are of Ethiopian origin. The vast majority are ethnic Somali pastoral nomads whose areas of origin are Dire Dawa, East and West Hararge, Ogaden, Bale and Borena. In southern Somalia, assistance is provided to refugees living in 29 camps in the Lug, Gedo and Lower Shabelle regions. There are 12 camps located in the north-west, but during 1988-1989 there were significant population shifts, resulting in the concentration of displaced refugees in and around Borama town.

5. The planning figure for refugees in Somalia was 600,000 in 1989 and 1990, including 460,000 in the south. In the north-west, the reduced planning figure of 140,000 corresponded to UNHCR/WFP estimates of beneficiaries, which took into account the results of a partial registration of the camps in the north-west in March 1989. With the anticipated movement for voluntary repatriation from the north-west, this number could decrease further by 1991.

6. The assistance programme in southern Somalia is of an ongoing nature pending implementation of the special programme for durable solutions, which is discussed further below. Sectoral activities in health, education and water were, as in previous years, undertaken by the refugee units in the technical ministries concerned. Efforts initiated in early 1988 to streamline assistance were pursued

actively in 1989 and, together with the necessity to lower budgets owing to the financial crisis and delays in implementation in the north-west, led to significant multi-sectoral budget reductions, especially in international procurement. Reductions in dollar terms were also realized as a result of the rapid devaluation of the Somali shilling. However, these were offset to some extent by the high rate of inflation, which necessitated increases in the salary levels of agency personnel and in local administrative costs. Care and maintenance food deliveries were made with only occasional interruptions or delays as a result of circumstances usually beyond the control of the refugee assistance programme.

III. RESPONSE OF THE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

7. The organized voluntary repatriation programme from the Gedo region, which began in December 1986, continued on a regular basis in 1989 despite difficult road conditions and other logistics constraints. Since 1986, a total of 12,029 persons have been assisted to repatriate under UNHCR auspices, of whom 4,700 were repatriated in 1989 and a further 1,053 between January and June 1990. Total operational expenditures for voluntary repatriation in 1989 totalled $1.59 million. In addition to ongoing costs, these funds were also used to meet the costs associated with the durable solution registration exercise in the southern camps referred to below and to finance the purchase of the vehicular bridge that has been installed at Dolo across the Dawa River.

8. The family life programme benefited up to 10,000 adult refugee women by improving literacy and prospects for self-sufficiency. The project also improved the quality of day-care programmes through in-service teacher training and upgrading of the skills and management capabilities of supervisors and headmistresses.

9. The UNHCR programme in north-west Somalia was seriously disturbed following the events of May 1988, which led to very limited monitoring of humanitarian assistance, as well as to bearing of arms by some refugees in the camps in the Hargeisa area and their becoming party to the conflict. After extensive discussions, in early 1989, UNHCR, WFP and the Government of Somalia agreed to continue food rations for a fixed period, during which time the civilian population in the camps would be re-registered and assisted to relocate to jointly selected sites outside the conflict zones. In March 1989, re-registration was successfully completed in four camps only, yielding a total figure one third as large as the previous planning figure. In spite of arrangements made by UNHCR, the relocation proved not to be feasible.

10. At the end of August 1989, UNHCR and WFP informed the Government that under the prevailing circumstances in the north-west they had no option but to suspend assistance temporarily. Subsequently, the Secretary-General approached the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) about formulating a humanitarian assistance programme for the civilian population in the north-west, including the

refugees. ICRC expressed its readiness to explore avenues for an expanded presence, provided that its normal conditions for operating were respected. It was acknowledged that six months would be needed before an expanded ICRC programme could become operational. UNHCR and WFP responded favourably to the Secretary-General's request to participate, on a good offices basis, in the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme. The Secretary-General designated the United Nations Special Co-ordinator for Emergency Relief Operations as his special representative on all matters concerning the Programme, and a task force was established, consisting of UNDP, UNHCR, WFP and ELU/CARE. Once the implementation modalities were agreed upon with the Government and the food resources mobilized, the Emergency Programme began in mid-February 1990 and ended on 31 August 1990. In practice, UNHCR's good offices has involved the deployment of ELU/CARE logistics facilities and personnel for the port clearance, internal transport and distribution of some 8,000 metric tons of food. Approximately $750,000 in funds budgeted under the general programme has been advanced to the Emergency Programme. It was foreseen that this amount would be reimbursed by contributions for the Programme, but these have not yet been received.

11. At the time of preparation of the present report, limited special programme funds are available to begin implementation of an organized repatriation programme from the Borama area, and detailed arrangements are being worked out by UNHCR and ICRC, which will be responsible for logistics. There are 5,650 refugees whose applications for voluntary repatriation have been cleared by the Government of Ethiopia.

12. In April 1988 agreement between the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia created conditions conducive to providing durable solutions to the refugees. High-level negotiations between UNHCR and the Government of Somalia took place in May and June 1989 at Mogadishu and Geneva with a view to elaborating a viable operational strategy, and agreement was reached on general principles as well as basic implementation modalities. This led to the establishment of the tripartite commission, consisting of the Governments of Ethiopia and Somalia and UNHCR, with WFP as observer, which held its first meeting at Geneva in August 1989. Further agreement was reached on the overall approach and practical aspects of the programme during subsequent meetings of the Commission at Mogadishu in September and Addis Ababa in December 1989.

13. The special programme for durable solutions for Ethiopian refugees in Somalia is being launched now that the majority of the refugees can repatriate safely and are being encouraged to do so. The three main components of the special programme are:

(a) Voluntary repatriation. Two types of repatriation are envisaged, namely, organized repatriation and certified self-repatriation. In either case, prior clearance to repatriate will have been given by the Government of Ethiopia.

(b) Spontaneous local integration. Those who remain in Somalia of their own free choice will receive limited assistance to facilitate their spontaneous integration.

(c) Assistance to refugees. Those who demonstrate a well-founded fear for their safety should they repatriate will receive assistance aimed at providing for their organized integration in Somalia.

14. In accordance with the conclusions of the tripartite commission, a registration in all southern camps was conducted between November 1989 and February 1990 to enable refugees to register for one of the three options. A total of 468,212 persons registered as follows:

	Total	Percentage
Voluntary repatriation	109 242	23.3
Spontaneous local integration	355 969	76.0
Refugee status	3 001	0.7

15. Under the special programme, direct assistance towards both repatriation and spontaneous integration is to be provided on the basis of individual cash grants and full food rations. The cash grants are to vary in accordance with the solution opted for, being higher for organized repatriation than for spontaneous integration and higher still for certified self-repatriation. The implementing arrangements for the disbursement of the local integration grants have been elaborated in close consultation with the Government of Somalia, in particular the Central Bank, and with concerned development agencies. Mechanisms have been identified to eliminate or offset to the extent possible any potential inflationary effects of the food and cash grants. Similarly, a plan of action for the pre-positioning and distribution of food and the recovery of ration cards has been worked out in detail with WFP, which co-ordinates food aid, and with the key implementing partner, ELU/CARE.

16. An appeal to the international community was launched on 16 March 1990 to secure funds for the two-year special programme for durable solutions. The total requirements are $30.5 million on the Somalia side, of which $23.3 million would be disbursed in 1990, the vast majority for the payment of cash grants to the 356,000 persons who registered for spontaneous local integration. The programme envisages the voluntary repatriation of 167,000 refugees, including 60,000 from the north-west region. A favourable donor response will permit a significant reduction in the assisted case-load and allow for related programme adjustments. Implementation has so far been delayed owing to the unavailability of funds.

17. One of the conclusions of the tripartite commission was that wider area development and rehabilitation projects in the refugee-affected regions are components of assistance necessary to the success of the programme. The tripartite commission requested UNHCR to involve donors and development agencies in such projects in order to complement the direct assistance planned under the special programme. In December 1989, a joint mission by UNHCR, the European Community, the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to Somalia outlined the refugee-affected areas project. The project aims at defining measures to support disadvantaged groups by strengthening essential services in towns and other communities in the affected areas; to protect natural resources by rehabilitating the environment in affected areas; and to enhance marketing potential and encourage production by reinforcing basic infrastructure in the rural areas. The joint

mission's aide-mémoire was to be submitted to the consultative group meeting of the World Bank on Somalia scheduled for January 1990 in Paris. However, it was unfortunately cancelled. In line with its catalytic role, UNHCR has approached the World Bank, UNDP, and the European Community at the appropriate levels with a view to securing their involvement in the funding and implementation of the project.

18. The revised 1990 allocation of $7.6 million for care and maintenance activities reflects a number of diverse developments, some of which increased costs while others provided significant savings. The difficult conditions prevailing in the north-west have further delayed the implementation of certain planned activities, which resulted in savings. The provision for procurement of new replacement trucks for the aging fleet was deleted in favour of increased funding for procurement of spare parts. Important reductions were also realized in the procurement of materials and supplies for the health and water sectors. The devaluation of the Somali shilling, however, led to a steep rise in the prices of all commodities and necessitated salary increases for agency staff. The projected requirements for 1991 care and maintenance operations are $7.29 million. The significant reduction in project personnel costs, reflecting the conclusions of the UNHCR field staffing review, results from the closure of one sub-office and three field offices in 1990. Further staff reductions are planned for 1991 assuming progress is achieved in implementing the special programme for durable solutions. WFP is responsible for the co-ordination of food assistance. In 1989, ELU/CARE cleared 68,900 metric tons of food from the port of Mogadishu and 14,200 metric tons from the port of Berbera in the north-west. The requirements for 1990, based on an overall planning figure of 600,000, are 84,600 tons, at a total cost of some $28 million, including an estimated cost of $11 million to WFP. The actual food requirements for 1991 are being assessed by UNHCR and WFP in the light of progress achieved in 1990 in funding and implementation of the special programme for durable solutions.

19. The 1990 revised budget for voluntary repatriation amounts to $1.38 million for the ongoing costs of repatriating 5,000 refugees and to cover the installation of the vehicular bridge, and the balance required for the registration exercise. Initially, provision for an expanded repatriation programme was made in the tentative 1990 allocation; this provision was subsequently incorporated in the special programme budget. The special programme is designed to cover ultimately all the costs associated with the expanded repatriation operation and therefore a minimal provision of $450,700 is made in the 1991 general programme.

20. The 1990 revised appropriation for local settlement activities of $2.7 million includes provision for primary and adult education, as well as teacher training activities. In the initial tentative 1990 allocation, $1.8 million was budgeted for a pilot project to begin in implementation of the durable solutions programme but was later put in the special programme appeal. The funding of agricultural settlement projects is reduced from prior years in the light of the results of the registration exercise in the southern camps. Only a small number of refugees submitted claims to retain refugee status, which, if approved, would entitle them to continued UNHCR assistance toward local integration. Therefore, the revised appropriation provides for several initiatives in the water, health and shelter sectors to promote area development and strengthening of economic and social

infrastructure in areas where refugees are likely to seek integration. These initiatives are designed to serve as pilot project activities for the refugee-affected areas project, for which UNHCR is seeking the involvement of development agencies. The projected requirements for 1991 total $2.3 million.

21. A total of 269 individuals were resettled in 1989 and more than 300 individuals were resettled during the first quarter of 1990. The total number of pending cases is 128 (representing 144 individuals), of whom 35 cases are from vulnerable groups. The revised requirements for 1990 are $19,200, to cover transport costs in Somalia. An equal amount is projected for 1991.

B. United Nations Children's Fund

22. Prior to the conflict of June 1988, which led to the evacuation of United Nations staff in north-west Somalia, UNICEF had supported a broad area based programme in two regions, north-west and Audal, which have a combined population of 550,000 persons. Activities included primary health care, water and sanitation, essential drugs, education and a project for emergencies. Following the evacuation of Hargeisa, all activities ceased and the supported programme collapsed. During the next 18 months, the conflicts continued, driving refugees and displaced war-affected populations to the relative security of Borama town and Audal region. Recognizing the extreme hardships caused by both the conflicts and the drought conditions, the United Nations proposed the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme. UNICEF's role was to assist in restoring basic services essential to the welfare of all populations of women and children, including refugees.

23. UNICEF's response to the Emergency Programme in Somalia follows recommendations made by a United Nation inter-agency mission and a UNICEF assessment mission made to Audal in late 1989 and early 1990. Interventions were made in restoring the Expanded Programme on Immunization, reactivating local primary health care and mother and child health teams, undertaking a nutrition survey in Borama town and Audal region, investigating an upgrading of water facilities and expanding sanitation facilities.

24. Cold chain equipment and the first stock of vaccines was flown into Borama in April. Primary health care and mother and child health teams began the first round of vaccinations in the region, following re-establishment of the cold chain. Re-activation of supply of vaccines to the refugee camps Damuq A, B, and C was made possible with the help of the Refugee Health Unit. National officers of the Expanded Programme on Immunization trained the Refugee Health Unit vaccination staff. With the establishment of a second mother and child health centre in Borama, which also serves refugee populations, and the introduction of an outreach strategy, Borama town and the Audal region now have some of the highest vaccine coverage figures in Somalia.

25. Mother and child health equipment and essential drugs were airlifted to Borama in early March 1990. Local primary health care and mother and child health teams provided regular service to resident and displaced populations by mid-month, while Refugee Health Unit teams (funded by UNHCR) undertook mother and child health/Expanded Programme on Immunization activities as well as supplementary

feeding. Integration of Refugee Health Unit staff into the primary health care programme in the Audal region was discussed.

26. A water consultant will begin in September 1990 to assess needs in refugee camps, as well as in Borama town and areas where displaced persons are living.

27. Following a mid-term review of current co-operation scheduled for late August 1990, UNICEF will decide whether a revision to the master plan of operations is required for the period 1990-1992. Staff is currently being recruited for the programme. It is hoped that the current activities will eventually become part of the normal UNICEF country programme of support to Somalia.

C. United Nations Development Programme

28. UNDP has played a major role in co-ordinating the efforts of the United Nations system to help Somalia in the formulation and implementation of its emergency and rehabilitation programme. In response to the appeal launched by the Government of Somalia in September 1989 and in compliance with resolution 44/152, UNDP has actively supported the Government's efforts in the preparation and launching of the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme designed to provide renewed assistance to the refugees in Somalia. This six-month interim programme began its operations in February 1990.

29. The Resident Co-ordinator, with the support of a small Emergency Unit established within the UNDP field office, has been requested by the Secretary-General to assume the co-ordination of the efforts of the United Nations system towards the implementation of the Programme. To that end, a task force chaired by the Resident Representative and Resident Co-ordinator was established in Mogadishu, comprising representatives of UNHCR, WFP, ELU/CARE and UNDP. The task force has been working in tandem with the government co-ordinating institutions with a view to ensuring a timely and efficient implementation of the Programme. While the specific components will be implemented directly by the concerned agencies, UNDP will be responsible for the co-ordination of the efforts of the United Nations system and will also assist the Government in co-ordinating the response of the international community. The Emergency Unit will assist in needs assessment, the design of emergency-related programmes and the collection of information on actual programme implementation.

30. UNDP has in early 1990 approved a project of $US 1.0 million designed to increase the effectiveness of emergency assistance programmes to displaced persons and refugees. The project provides logistical and management support for the emergency operations for the displaced and refugees in north-west Somalia. More specifically, the project assists in the monitoring of their health and nutritional situation, the promotion of programmes for greater self-reliance among the displaced and the co-ordination of the various operations in co-operation with the Government, local authorities, non-governmental agencies, the international community of donors and the United Nations agencies.

31. UNDP has also benefited from the financial support of Canada and the United States of America in ensuring the availability, for an initial period of three months, of an aircraft, which is considered to be an essential element for the success of relief operations. It is expected that additional funding could be mobilized to ensure the extension of the aircraft operations throughout the duration of the interim emergency programme.

D. United Nations Environment Programme

32. At the request of and in co-operation with UNHCR, UNEP mounted a joint consultancy mission to Somalia to investigate the extent of the negative impact of refugee settlements on the surrounding environment and to recommend remedial action for its rehabilitation. The mission visited refugee camps in the south of the country where it discovered that a lot of deforestation had taken place around the camps and deep into the countryside as the result of the cutting down of trees and shrubs that were used as fuel for domestic purposes. Besides, there were obvious hygiene problems in and around the camps owing to lack of proper disposal of domestic wastes.

33. The mission submitted its report to UNHCR making concrete recommendations to improve the situation.

E. United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office

34. In 1989-1990, a plan of action to combat desertification was formulated by the Government of Somalia with the support of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office. Pending the official adoption of this plan, consultations are being held between the Office, the World Bank and FAO to ensure the harmonization of interventions planned under the desertification plan, the environmental action plan formulated with the support of the World Bank and the tropical forestry action plan formulated with the support of FAO.

35. Consultations have also started between the Government of Somalia and the Office with a view to setting up an ecological monitoring facility in Somalia to help the Government acquire the necessary data and information needed to monitor the land degradation process in the country.

F. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

36. Although FAO continues its participation in inter-agency activities related to refugees in Somalia, no additional projects have been approved in this field by the Organization since 1989.

G. World Health Organization

37. WHO actively participated in the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme and the strategy sessions of the mandated organizations. In particular, WHO:

(a) Provided technical advice on planning and strategy;

(b) Funded the assistance and recommendations of the Ministry of Health personnel for on-site community water supply activities;

(c) Offered the on-site assistance of WHO's professional staff (an epidemiologist, a statistician, an environmental engineer and a medical equipment repair specialist). Because of the deterioration in the security situation and other problems, this offer of on-site assistance was not utilized;

(d) Established and co-ordinated a selection of Somali nationals who could be called upon quickly to participate or undertake nutrition surveillance and other such surveys. Even though the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme ended on 30 August, this group of trained and qualified individuals still meets periodically and they are still readily available for nutrition surveillance, epidemiological and other such surveys in other parts of Somalia as needed.

H. World Food Programme

38. WFP continues to be actively involved in the general feeding of Ethiopian refugees in Somalia, through both its protracted refugee operation in the south, and the Secretary-General's six-month Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme for refugees in the north-west. During 1990, this assistance has covered 440,000 re-registered refugees in the south and 140,000 refugees in the north-west. In addition, the Programme continues to provide supplementary feeding to about 50,000 vulnerable children and mothers in the refugee camps, under a vulnerable group development feeding project.

39. With the favourable conclusion, at the end of 1989, of the tripartite commission for durable solutions, WPF ensured that adequate food supplies entered into Somalia during the first quarter of 1990 in order to enable the smooth implementation of the integration component of the programme. The lack of adequate cash resources forming part of a cash/food integration package has not, however, allowed the integration process to begin. The WFP food supplies have, therefore, provided for the daily feeding of refugees awaiting repatriation or re-integration.

40. WFP also participated in the Extraordinary Interim Emergency Programme, which came into being as a result of UNHCR and WFP jointly deciding that it was not possible to continue normal relief activities in the north-west owing to security problems and other difficulties. The Programme, initiated in response to a specific request from the Secretary-General, was an interim measure of six months to avert suffering among refugees until a more permanent arrangement could be established. The Programme officially terminated at the end of August 1990.

41. Negotiations between the Government of Somalia and the Secretary-General continue to ensure that conditions allowing the maintenance of an assistance programme to meet the survival needs of the refugees, encourage voluntary repatriation and provide aid to other affected Somalis in the north is available in the future. In the mean time, a limited relief operation is being carried out by ICRC, which pursues its own discussions with the Government, and its opposing factions, to expand the programme further.

42. In addition to the direct assistance to the durable solution programme for the refugees, WFP remains open to sound initiatives aimed at the rehabilitation and reconstruction of the economy and environment damaged by the presence of refugees over the years, as well as activities to assist with the settlement of refugees in Somalia.

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FINANCIAL REPORTS AND AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND REPORTS OF THE BOARD OF AUDITORS

Implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

Report of the Secretary-General

1. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 44/183 of 19 December 1989, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations organizations and programmes concerned to take without delay appropriate measures within their competence and in the light of the comments, observations and recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, as endorsed in that resolution, in particular those relating to accounts and financial reporting, programme expenditure, assets and liabilities, including unliquidated obligations, budgetary controls, cash management, trust funds accounts and management issues such as hiring of consultants, award of contracts and project formulation, and to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session.

2. In paragraph 7 of resolution 44/183, the Secretary-General and the executive heads of the United Nations organizations and programmes concerned were requested to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, through the Board of Auditors and the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, on specific measures taken to implement the recommendations of the Board, and to explain if any of those recommendations had not yet been implemented.

3. Action has been initiated on most of the matters raised by the Board of Auditors in its earlier reports, as noted in paragraph 210 of the report of the Board to the current session of General Assembly on the accounts of the United Nations for the biennium ended 31 December 1989. 1/ Observations and recommendations on areas which, in the opinion of the Board, require further action are also reflected or reiterated in its latest report, together with the responses and explanations provided by the Secretariat.

4. The Secretary-General welcomes the comments and observations of the Board of Auditors, and those of the Advisory Committee, and will continue to address their concerns in the interests of effective management and financial control.

Note

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 5 (A/45/5), vol. I and Corr.1.

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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATION AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION

Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade

Report of the Secretary-General

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

I. INTRODUCTION

1. On 16 December 1985, the General Assembly adopted resolution 40/152 I, entitled "Review and appraisal of the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade", the operative part of which reads as follows:

> "The General Assembly,
>
> "...
>
> "1. Decides to adopt the relevant portion of the report of the Disarmament Commission;
>
> "2. Requests the Conference on Disarmament to accelerate the implementation of the activities elaborated in the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, as enumerated in the report of the Disarmament Commission;
>
> "3. Calls upon all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States:
>
> "(a) To reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade;
>
> "(b) To reaffirm their commitment to the attainment of the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control;
>
> "(c) To adopt concrete and practical measures for preventing the outbreak of war, in particular nuclear war;
>
> "(d) To take appropriate steps to halt and reverse the nuclear-arms race with a view to improving the international climate and enhancing the efficacy of disarmament negotiations;
>
> "(e) To exert greater efforts to the implementation of the World Disarmament Campaign;
>
> "4. Requests the Secretary-General to report annually to the General Assembly on the implementation of the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade."

2. Pursuant to paragraph 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General, in a note verbale dated 16 February 1990, requested all Member and non-member States to submit their views and suggestions. To date, the Secretary-General has received replies from China, Mexico, Qatar and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The replies are reproduced in section II below. Additional replies received will be issued as addenda to the present report.

II. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

CHINA

[Original: Chinese]

[25 June 1990]

1. Ten years ago, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade, which set forth the specific goals for international disarmament efforts in the Decade. Thanks to the support and endeavour of the peace-loving people in all countries and with the evolution in the international situation, the prolonged stagnation in the international disarmament field has begun to witness some improvement in recent years. While a number of preliminary results were achieved, the full realization of the specific goals of the Second Disarmament Decade has not been attained and the tasks for advancing the cause of disarmament remain protracted and challenging.

2. The Government of the People's Republic of China has always pursued an independent foreign policy of peace. It opposes hegemonism and power politics, stands for genuine disarmament that is conducive to world peace and security of all countries, and advocates the establishment of a new international political order that is just and reasonable and based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence. In keeping with this position, China during the past decade not only sought extensive participation in the disarmament efforts of the United Nations and other multilateral bodies and presented its reasonable propositions and proposals on a wide range of major disarmament issues, but also took of its own accord a series of practical actions and measures that were beneficial to promoting disarmament and maintaining world peace, including a unilateral reduction of one million troops, thus making its contribution to the realization of the goals set forth in the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade. For example:

(a) In the early 1980s, China started to carry out the work of shifting its military industries and defence technologies to civilian production on a large scale;

(b) Since 1981, China has stopped atmospheric nuclear testing;

(c) In 1982, China acceded to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects;

(d) In 1983, China acceded to the Agreement Governing the Activities of States on the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies;

(e) In 1983, China acceded to the Antarctic Treaty;

(f) In 1984, China joined the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA);

(g) In 1984, China acceded to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction;

(h) From 1985 to 1987, China cut the size of its armed forces by one million;

(i) In 1987, China co-sponsored the Beijing United Nations Regional Conference for the World Disarmament Campaign with the Department for Disarmament Affairs of the Secretariat;

(j) In 1988, China signed an agreement with IAEA on the voluntary offer of a part of its nuclear energy installations to be placed under the Agency's safeguards;

(k) In 1989, China started negotiations with the Soviet Union on the Agreement on Mutual Reduction of Military Forces in Border Areas and the Guidance to Enhance Trust in the Military Field, which was signed the following year;

(l) Over the Decade, the proportion of China's defence spending in government expenditures decreased year after year.

3. This year, the Disarmament Commission has adopted by consensus the Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade. It sets forth the principal goals and tasks for the disarmament efforts in the Decade. The Government of China endorses the purposes and objectives as stipulated in the Declaration and will, as always, dedicate itself to the cause of maintaining world peace and security and make its due contribution to this end.

MEXICO

[Original: Spanish]

[16 July 1990]

1. In its resolution 40/152 L of 16 December 1985, the General Assembly called upon all States to reaffirm their commitment to the Declaration of the 1980s as the Second Disarmament Decade.

2. Mexico's commitment to the principles and objectives of this Declaration is reflected in that country's active participation in both discussions of and negotiations on disarmament, in an unremitting effort to achieve the ultimate objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

3. In the light of this commitment to the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade, and before there is any adoption of a Declaration of a Third Decade, an evaluation should be made of the current disarmament situation.

4. Although the international community has begun to see a number of encouraging signs, the Government of Mexico is disappointed to observe, as it did when

evaluating the achievements of the First Disarmament Decade, that a large portion of the objectives put forward in the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade (resolution 35/46) remain unimplemented.

5. It should be remembered that, at the start of the 1980s, the outlook was very bleak; expenditure on armaments had increased tremendously world wide, the arms race threatened to spread to outer space, and the two super-Powers had suspended their dialogue.

6. In such a context, it was no accident that on 22 May 1984 the leaders of Argentina, Greece, India, Mexico, Sweden and the United Republic of Tanzania issued the first of a series of declarations in the context of the search for peace and disarmament, stating that:

> "Today, the survival of humankind is in jeopardy. The escalating arms race, the rise in international tensions and the lack of constructive dialogue among the nuclear-weapons States has increased the risk of nuclear war. Such a war, even using part of the present stockpiles, would bring death and destruction to all peoples."

7. In recent years the international community has welcomed the resumption of bilateral negotiations and the agreement reached in 1987 on intermediate-range missiles in Europe. However, it has also continued to underscore the urgency of undertaking multilateral negotiations on the priority issues in the disarmament sphere, in particular the total cessation of nuclear tests.

8. The impatience generated by the lack of any negotiations on total cessation of nuclear tests led the international community to consider the possibility of attaining this objective by amending the partial test-ban Treaty. The Government of Mexico hopes that the conference which is to be held in January 1991 for that purpose will contribute to the achievement of this very important goal in the multilateral disarmament negotiations.

9. The Conference on Disarmament, the sole forum for multilateral negotiations on disarmament, did not achieve a single agreement during the Decade.

10. The Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade allotted the "utmost urgency" to the elaboration of a comprehensive programme of disarmament and urged the Conference on Disarmament to expedite its work on it. Today, 10 years later, we observe that, in its latest report (CD/955), the Ad Hoc Committee on the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament merely records that it agreed to "resume work with a view to resolving the outstanding issues in the near future, when circumstances are more conducive to making progress in this regard".

11. During the last Decade there have been two special sessions of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament, in 1982 and 1988. Although the fact that they were held in itself demonstrated the growing interest and priority given by the international community to disarmament questions, it did not prove possible in either of the sessions to achieve a satisfactory agreement. The only concrete result was the establishment of the World Disarmament Campaign as a mechanism to enrol public opinion world wide in support of disarmament.

12. One of the few multilateral achievements of the last Decade worth mentioning is the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development which was held in 1987. Although the Member States of the United Nations did not all take part, this Conference did lead to a recognition at the political level of the relationship between disarmament and development. Examining the consequences for the world economy of the level of military spending, paragraph 27 of the Final Document of the Conference (A/CONF.130/39) states:

> The present world economic situation should also be seen in the context of the arms race. For certain countries the high deficits caused by military expenditures as well as the cumulative effect of subsequent rise in the interest rates have the effect of diverting substantial flows of capital away from development activities. In this sense, the whole world is affected by the arms race.

13. Mention should also be made of the Conference of States parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and other Interested States, held in Paris in January 1989, the final declaration of which gave a valuable impetus to the negotiation of the Convention on chemical weapons at the Conference on Disarmament.

14. Paragraph 3 of this Declaration says that:

> The participating States stress the necessity of concluding, at an early date, a Convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of all chemical weapons, and on their destruction. This Convention shall be global and comprehensive and effectively verifiable. It should be of unlimited duration. To this end, they call on the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva to redouble its efforts, as a matter of urgency, to resolve expeditiously the remaining issues and to conclude the Convention at the earliest date.

15. It may be said that this Conference had two major successes:

(a) It caused 149 States to give support at a high political level to the urgent conclusion of the work going on in Geneva; and

(b) The 149 participants condemned the use of chemical weapons, which was a step forward for the Geneva negotiations.

16. Another relevant achievement of the Decade was the conclusion of the South Pacific Nuclear-Free Zone Treaty (Raratonga Treaty) in August 1985. This Treaty set up the second nuclear-free zone in a populated part of the globe.

17. Having sought to make a critical evaluation of the implementation of the Declaration of the Second Disarmament Decade, one that weighed successes as well as failures, the Government of Mexico concludes that much still remains to be done to reach the final objective of general and complete disarmament under effective international control.

QATAR

[Original: English]

[11 April 1990]

Qatar referred to its note of 25 May 1989 (see A/44/435) and stated that the policies described therein remained those which Qatar consistently pursued in the field of disarmament.

UKRAINIAN SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLIC

[Original: Russian]

[8 August 1990]

1. The 1980s have witnessed some of the most profound and rapid changes in the post-war era. The beginning of the decade coincided with a peak of international tension, confrontation and stand-off of forces, which brought the world to the brink of self-destruction. The decade is ending in a dynamic reordering of international relations and in a transition to peaceful dialogue, co-operation and co-development based on universal human values.

2. During the second half of the 1980s important changes took place in the field of disarmament and the foundations for effective disarmament were laid. At the current talks, there is a growing trend towards a non-confrontational, constructive approach seeking positive solutions to the problems of disarmament. There is ever-increasing recognition that security in today's world can only be universal, equal and identical for all and that it is to be attained through political means. Security can be guaranteed not by a maximum, but rather by a minimum strategic balance and the confinement of military potential within the bounds of reasonable - defensive - sufficiency, whereby each side is in a position to defend itself, but does not create or possess the potential to attack others. The general recognition of the catastrophic and therefore unacceptable character of nuclear war inevitably makes it necessary to re-examine military doctrines.

3. A significant manifestation of the new political thinking in the field of disarmament has been the conclusion and subsequent implementation of the Treaty between the USSR and the United States on the Elimination of Their Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles, by which the foundations were laid for genuine disarmament. Great hopes are also pinned on the rapid conclusion of such important talks as those on reducing strategic offensive weapons and concluding a convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons and also the talks on conventional weapons in Europe. The bilateral efforts of the Soviet Union and the United States regarding arms reductions, including the agreements concluded during the June meeting of the Presidents of the two countries, are having a substantial impact on the whole process of disarmament.

4. A significant role has also been played by the unilateral measures which have recently been adopted. The Soviet Union is carrying out large-scale troop and arms

reductions; during the period 1989-1991 the armed forces of the Soviet Union will be reduced by 500,000 men, 10,000 tanks, 8,500 artillery pieces and 820 combat planes. Furthermore, military units are being converted to a defensive structure. The armed forces of a number of Eastern European countries are also being reduced, on a unilateral basis. In addition, by 20 December of last year, 500 nuclear warheads had been withdrawn by the Soviet Union from the territories of Warsaw Pact countries. Soviet troops are being withdrawn from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Mongolia.

5. It is a hopeful sign that these steps taken by the USSR and other Eastern European countries have been followed by several reciprocal measures on the part of NATO, in particular the decision not to modernize a number of nuclear-weapons delivery systems in Europe.

6. By the end of the 1980s there had been a significant growth in the role played in disarmament issues by the United Nations as a centre for co-ordinating the activities of States. The Ukrainian SSR greatly appreciates the work of the United Nations in this regard and is endeavouring to make a corresponding contribution to these processes. Our republic supported the resolutions on disarmament adopted at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly, and participated actively in the drafting of a number of them. The Ukrainian delegation is an active member of the Disarmament Commission, as well as of other disarmament forums.

7. The Ukrainian SSR feels that public opinion should play a prominent role with respect to disarmament. The Ukraine supports the World Disarmament Campaign, and contributes to it financially. These contributions are used to finance measures of relevance to disarmament. Last year, with the help of the contribution of the Ukrainian SSR, an international Seminar on Multinational Confidence-building Measures and the Prevention of War was held at Kiev. A large and varied number of measures are being carried out in the Ukraine in support of the anti-war movement. Confidence-building measures provided for by the Stockholm agreements are also being implemented in the Ukraine.

8. The great significance of the Second Disarmament Decade lies in the fact that it gave a practical impulse to the process of implementing the agreed multilateral disarmament measures and laid a broad foundation on which to build in the future. This is the recognition of the need to continue talks on further reductions of strategic nuclear weapons and conventional weapons and, after the conclusion of the forthcoming agreements, to accelerate the final stages of work on the convention on the prohibition and elimination of chemical weapons. Notwithstanding recent positive developments, there remain, as acute as ever, the questions of a complete nuclear-test ban, security guarantees for non-nuclear countries, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, missiles and missile technology, the creation of nuclear-free zones and zones of peace and co-operation, as well as other means of strengthening international security through disarmament.

9. The Ukrainian SSR will continue to endeavour to contribute to the search for mutually acceptable solutions to these problems. The Declaration of Sovereignty of the Ukraine adopted on 16 July 1990 by the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian SSR states that the Ukrainian SSR, as a fully fledged participant in the international

dialogue, actively promotes the strengthening of universal peace and international security.

10. In the opinion of the Ukrainian SSR, all the positive aspects which have been achieved during the Second Disarmament Decade must be exploited and developed as fully as possible in the 1990s within the framework of the Third Disarmament Decade, to be proclaimed at the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly, in order to make disarmament a global process encompassing all types of weapons and to enable all countries to make a contribution to the strengthening of international security through disarmament.

UNITED
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General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/511
17 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Item 142 of the provisional agenda*
DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF
GOOD-NEIGHBOURLINESS BETWEEN STATES

Letter dated 17 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Romania to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly includes item 142, entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States", in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 43/171 A and B of 9 December 1988.

I have the honour to inform you that, in its capacity of initiator of that item, Romania requests that its consideration should be deferred until the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly and included in the provisional agenda of that session.

The present request is made because of the unprecedented number of items inscribed this year on the provisional agenda of the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly and because of the predictable agenda of the Sixth Committee. In addition, Romania believes that at the forty-fifth session the attention of the Sixth Committee should be concentrated in particular on item 143 of the provisional agenda concerning the preparation of the programme for the United Nations Decade of International Law, which should be given adequate priority and time. The decision to defer until 1991 the consideration of item 142 would help to allocate more time to item 143 during the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly. It has been recognized that the staggering of items over two or more years constitutes one means of rationalizing the procedures of the General Assembly.

The idea of deferring the consideration of item 142 of the provisional agenda, entitled "Development and strengthening of good-neighbourliness between States",

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

until the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly was also made known at the informal consultations devoted to the organization of work of the Sixth Committee on 14 September 1990.

I have the honour to request circulation of this letter as an official document of the General Assembly under item 142 of the provisional agenda.

(Signed) Aurel-Dragoş MUNTEANU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

UNITED
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General Assembly Security Council

Distr.
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A/45/512
S/21783
17 September 1990
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: ENGLISH AND FRENCH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-fifth session
Item 35 of the provisional agenda*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-fifth year

Letter dated 17 September 1990 from the Permanent Representative of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the text, in English and French, of the statement by the Twelve on the embassies in Kuwait issued on 14 September 1990 by the Twelve States members of the European Community.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 35 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Vieri TRAXLER
Ambassador

* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

ANNEX

Statement issued on 14 September 1990 by the Twelve States members of the European Community on the embassies in Kuwait

The European Community and its member States announce the very grave violation of the provisions of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations, to which Iraq has subscribed, perpetrated by the Iraqi occupying forces in Kuwait when they broke into the premises of the French and Dutch Embassies and took away French nationals, one of them a diplomat.

The Community and its member States similarly denounce those acts committed against other embassies and their nationals.

This represents an intolerable affront to international law and to the rights of the individual.

The Community and its member States demand the immediate release of the captured foreign nationals and invite the Iraqi authorities urgently to respect the provisions of international law.

A Community démarche to this end will be made to the Iraqi authorities.

UNITED
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General Assembly

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GENERAL

A/45/513
27 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 56 (c)

GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT

Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons

Report of the Secretary-General

1. On 15 December 1989, the General Assembly adopted resolution 44/116 A, the operative part of which reads as follows:

"The General Assembly,

"...

"1. Reaffirms that armed attacks of any kind against nuclear facilities are tantamount to the use of radiological weapons, owing to the dangerous radioactive forces that such attacks cause to be released;

"2. Requests once again the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further its efforts to reach, as early as possible, an agreement prohibiting armed attacks against nuclear facilities;

"3. Requests again the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide the Conference on Disarmament with the technical studies that could facilitate the conclusion of such an agreement;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution."

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 2, 3 and 4 of the resolution, the Secretary-General draws the attention of Member States to paragraphs 122 to 124 of the report of the Conference on Disarmament submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session. 1/

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/45/27).

UNITED
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General Assembly

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A/45/514
25 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 24

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

Report of the Secretary-General

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report has been prepared in compliance with General Assembly resolution 44/4 concerning co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System (SELA), adopted by the Assembly at its forty-fourth session.

2. In that resolution, the General Assembly urged the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean to broaden and deepen its co-ordination and mutual support activities with the Latin American Economic System; urged the United Nations Development Programme to strengthen and broaden its support to the programmes that the Permanent Secretariat of the Latin American Economic System was carrying out; and urged the specialized agencies and other organizations and programmes of the United Nations system to continue and intensify their support for and co-operation with the activities of the Latin American Economic System; requested the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote, in close collaboration with the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System, the holding of a meeting in 1990 between their respective secretariats, with the aim of identifying those areas in which it would be possible to broaden co-operation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System; requested both the Secretary-General of the United Nations and the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System to initiate consultations for the purpose of drafting an agreement of co-operation between the United Nations and the Latin American Economic System; and also requested the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

3. For the preparation of the present report, the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) wrote to the following organizations of the United Nations system requesting a summary of their activities with SELA, to be included in the report to the Secretary-General: Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Labour Organisation (ILO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Telecommunications Union (ITU), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), Universal Postal Union (UPU), World Bank, World Health Organization (WHO), World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Co-ordinator (UNDRO), United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), United Nations University (UNU), World Food Council (WFC) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Eleven of these replied by sending a summary of their activities in co-operation with SELA. Four noted that they did not currently carry

out any activities with SELA; a number of them, however, expressed their desire to do so in future. The following summary was based on all of this information.

II. CO-OPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

4. As can be seen by the report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session (A/44/550), since the establishment in October 1975 of the Latin American Economic System (SELA) considerable co-operation has taken place between the United Nations and SELA, in particular with ECLAC, but also with other organizations, agencies and programmes of the United Nations system.

5. As the present report shows, this co-operation has tended to be diversified both in respect of the areas and of the organizations concerned.

6. Pursuant to the above-mentioned General Assembly resolution, and various resolutions adopted in recent years by ECLAC (see resolutions 425 (XIX), 431 (XIX), 439 (XIX), 475 (XX), 458 (XX), 476 (XXI), 491 (XXII) and 508 (XXIII)), a natural, close and fruitful co-operation has continued to develop between ECLAC and SELA, a summary of which is provided in the following paragraphs in respect of the period covered by the present report.

7. Co-operation between ECLAC and SELA has included the participation of ECLAC representatives in various meetings convened by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA and vice versa, and the preparation by ECLAC of specialized documents in varied fields designed to support SELA activities. Some of the many aspects of this co-operation are set forth below.

8. In relation to transport, at the request of the third ordinary meeting of the Latin American Commission for Maritime Transport (COLTRAM) of SELA, which was held from 22 to 24 May 1989, ECLAC is preparing a study of regional ports, whose objective is to enhance their contribution to the competitiveness of Latin American and Caribbean foreign trade, with respect to legislation, management, services, market and technology. This document is expected to be published in the last quarter of 1990.

9. With regard to industry and technology, ECLAC has been collaborating with SELA in the preparation of the regional conference on industrialization, being sponsored by SELA. The necessary co-ordination between the two institutions is being assured through inter-agency meetings, in which representatives of UNIDO have also participated.

10. At the preparatory inter-agency meeting, held on 6 May 1990 during the twenty-third session of ECLAC, the contributions to be made by each of the organizations to the above-mentioned regional conference were examined. It was agreed that ECLAC's contribution would consist of the presentation of the industrial policies that derived from its proposal on changing production patterns with social equity.

11. With regard to social policies, ECLAC participated in the First Meeting of Organizations on Proposals for Integrated Social Policies vis-à-vis the Macro-economic Adjustments in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, organized by SELA, and held in Caracas on 11 and 12 June 1990. At that meeting, ECLAC presented as a working document of the seminar the study entitled "Recursos humanos, pobreza y las estrategias de desarrollo".

12. In the area of forward planning, through the co-ordinating mechanism set up by the Meeting to Co-ordinate the Work of Regional Organizations in the Area of Forward Economic Planning (SELA/ILPES), held in March 1989 and in which the Latin American Association of Development Financing Institutions (ALIDE), the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), UNESCO, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and ECLAC participated, joint work was undertaken in the seminar on Latin America and the world towards the year 2000, organized by UNESCO and held in Quito, from 30 April to 6 May 1989; in the seminar "Methodologies of analysis of the international economic climate: a Latin American perspective", organized by the Latin American and Caribbean Institute for Economic and Social Planning (ILPES) and the Regional Centre for Third World Studies (CRESET), and held in Bogotá on 27 and 28 June 1989; in the International Meeting on International Economic Prospects and Energy Markets, organized by OLADE and held in Rio de Janeiro from 5 to 8 June 1990; and in the seminar on the international economy: a Latin American perspective, organized in Huelva, Spain, from 20 to 24 August 1990, by ILPES and the Hispanic American University of Rábida.

13. In the area of technical co-operation, ECLAC continues to provide support to SELA in the organization of meetings of directors and meetings of the co-ordinating mechanism, which are held at the same time as the former. At the meeting of national directors of co-operation, which will be held in September 1990, ECLAC will present a brief report on its activities to promote technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC). At that meeting, the operational agreements for the forthcoming exercise of regional programming of TCDC (1992) will be adopted. ECLAC, together with SELA, UNDP, and WHO/PAHO, is participating in the preparation of a regional programming exercise in TCDC in the area of health, pursuant to decision 287 of the Latin American Council of SELA.

14. With regard to services, ECLAC participated in the following meetings of SELA, which were held within the framework of the UNDP/UNCTAD/ECLAC project: Meeting of Experts on Air Transport Services (26-27 October 1989); Meeting of Experts on Telecommunications Services (30-31 October 1989); Meeting of Experts on Construction and Engineering Services (1-2 November 1989); Meeting of Experts on Audio-visual Services (3-4 November 1989); and the Meeting of Experts on Financial Services (6-7 November 1989), all of which were held in Caracas. The conclusions of these meetings served as inputs for the preparation of studies on the above-mentioned service sectors in Latin America, as well as for the elaboration, by the Permanent Secretariat of SELA, of a proposal on the structure of a multilateral framework for trade in services having due regard for the interests of developing countries. This proposal was considered and adopted by the Third Latin American Consultative Meeting on Services (Geneva, 6, 21 and 22 February 1990), and was an important contribution to the deliberations of the Group of Negotiations on Services of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations.

15. ECLAC also participated in the Regional Conference on External Debt, organized by SELA, which was held in Caracas from 18 to 22 June 1990. As a contribution to that Conference, ECLAC prepared a document entitled "Endeudamiento externo y crecimiento economico de América Latina y el Caribe: consecuencias económicas de la propuesta de reducción de la carga de la deuda formulada por la Secretaría Permanente del SELA comparadas con la de escenarios alternativos".

16. In other areas, such as economic and social documentation, the environment and human settlements, consultations were held with a view to future joint action.

17. Co-operation between UNDP and SELA is continuing on the basis of the draft document on institutional support to SELA for the period 1989-1991, enabling SELA and UNDP to identify priority areas for joint action.

18. Since 1973, a total of $US 4 million has been allocated from the regional indicative planning figure (IPF) for this purpose. Five technical co-operation projects have been implemented, ranging from direct institutional support and strengthening of SELA's secretariat to assistance in policy concertation, formulation of external economic relations strategies and promotion of regional integration and co-operation. UNDP is prepared to continue with this fruitful collaboration beyond the parameters of the ongoing assistance. To this effect, discussions will be held with Governments and SELA officials within the framework of the Fifth Programming Cycle.

19. Co-operation between UNESCO and SELA has continued under the co-operation agreement signed on 20 July 1988 between the two organizations. SELA has made available to UNESCO its regional information infrastructure (data bank) and its network of specialized committees in the various socio-economic sectors. UNESCO, for its part, has invited SELA to participate as an observer at important meetings held in the region, such as the International Congress on Planning and Management of Educational Development (Mexico City, 1990).

20. Co-operation in the field of education has been carried out through the Subregional Office for Education for Central America and Panama, headquartered in San José, Costa Rica, and the Action Committee in Support of the Economic and Social Development of Central America (CADESCA), under the auspices of SELA. The cultural dimension of development, on which UNESCO is promoting reflection and action (in particular through the Programme of the World Decade for Cultural Development), was considered at a joint meeting, held in Caracas in 1989, on indicators and methodology to facilitate the integration of the cultural dimension with planning. The social sciences have been a key sector in co-operation between SELA and UNESCO. Studies have been carried out on integrated social policies. With the participation of the Special Unit for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries (TCDC) of UNDP, preparations for a TCDC supply and demand operation were initiated in 1989.

21. With regard to prospective studies, SELA organized inter-agency co-ordination by sponsoring an initial meeting held in 1989, as mentioned in paragraph 12. Eighteen agencies were convened at a second meeting, held in Caracas in March 1990, which gave special consideration to prospective studies in co-operation with the UNESCO network and to the training of administrative staff.

22. In relation to co-operation between UNEP and SELA, the UNEP Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean, headquartered in Mexico City, held talks at the Caracas inter-agency meeting with representatives of SELA to inform them about the work of the programme and to recommend that they should use this framework for specific activities in the field of marine and coastal resource management in this subregion. Joint efforts may be carried out on this topic in future.

23. ILO, through the Regional Employment Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean (PREALC), has been conducting studies and has carried out a series of activities in co-operation with SELA in the area of employment, and has also been submitting proposals concerning the social effects of the crisis and the macro-economic adjustments needed to deal with it.

24. As part of this effort, PREALC, on behalf of ILO, participated in the Meeting of International Agencies on the Social Impact of the Crisis, the External and Adjustment Policies, organized by SELA and held in Caracas on 11 and 12 June 1990. At this meeting, a report was presented on the main PREALC activities in the area of integrated policies, and a steering committee was set up in which PREALC will participate directly.

25. WIPO participated in the Fifteenth Meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA (Cartagena, Colombia, July-August 1990). The meeting established the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property Policies for the purpose of promoting regional consultation, co-ordination and co-operation initiatives on this topic. WIPO was invited to provide technical co-operation to the Forum. In December 1989, the WIPO International Bureau submitted proposals to SELA for holding a meeting of experts on intellectual property matters, to be organized jointly by WIPO and SELA.

26. The meeting, held in Caracas from 9 to 10 July 1990, preceded the First Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Forum on Intellectual Property, also held in Caracas from 11 to 13 July. The meeting of experts dealt with the following topics, inter alia: (a) progress and recent trends in the international protection of intellectual property; (b) WIPO activities in relation to the establishment of international intellectual property standards in 1990 and 1991; (c) storage and use of technological data contained in patent documents, in the light of new technologies and their financial implications; and (d) elements of co-operation in respect of intellectual property in the region, and the co-ordination of relevant policies and activities.

27. Finally, contacts were maintained between SELA and WIPO in relation to Uruguay Round negotiations on the trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights.

28. The Second Programme of Co-operation for the Biennium 1990-1991 was signed on 13 July 1989 by UNIDO and SELA. It identifies certain priority areas, including the UNIDO system of consultations, technological development and industrial restructuring, and assistance to SELA in the preparation of an integrated approach to economic and industrial development in Latin America and the Caribbean, incorporating the necessary relations between industrialization, technology and regional integration.

29. An evaluation of the activities jointly undertaken has determined that positive results have been accomplished and that, through close ties of co-operation between UNIDO and SELA, priority areas of concern to member States have been addressed in a well-planned and systematic manner. Member States have endorsed these initiatives and have actively participated in the design and implementation of programmes such as industrial collaboration in the field of electronics (following a meeting on Industrial Concertation in the Electronics Industry in Latin America, held in June 1990 in São Paulo, Brazil) and joint preparations for convening during the next biennium a regional consultation on the restructuring of the capital goods industry. Activities of interest to member States include the development and strengthening of consultancy engineering services and the possibility of production complementarities in the non-ferrous metals and construction industries. It should be noted that the UNIDO Regional Advisor participated in the above-mentioned meeting on electronics and presented a paper at the meeting.

30. Under the UNIDO/SELA Second Programme of Co-operation, particular attention will be devoted to the field of new technologies, with the aim of building upon and broadening the scope of existing programmes in the region, such as the Regional Microelectronics Network for Latin America and the Caribbean (REMLAC), under which a project is being financed by the UNDP Regional Programme, with UNIDO as the executing agency. Similar efforts include work in the fields of biotechnology, new materials, prospective studies on technology and technology management, in all of which areas there is close co-operation between the two secretariats. Jointly sponsored meetings will take place in the fields of biotechnology policies and prospective studies on technology.

31. Finally, UNIDO, together with ECLAC, is actively supporting SELA in the preparations for the Regional Conference on Industrialization in Latin America, convened under its mandate by the SELA Latin American Council, which is scheduled to take place in November 1990. It is anticipated that the Regional Conference will consider a proposal for a Latin American and Caribbean programme on industrialization for the 1990s and will consider the launching of a plan of action for joint implementation by the three organizations concerned.

32. In relation to co-operation between IMO and SELA, consultations are being pursued on the possible establishment of a co-operation agreement between the two bodies for carrying out joint activities.

33. ITU has continued to participate as an observer at the meetings of the SELA Latin American Council, and 1990, at the meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Broadcasting Union (ULCRA) held a co-ordinating meeting to support SELA activities in the area of telecommunications.

34. The UNCTAD secretariat is co-operating closely with SELA in promoting or undertaking projects and programmes for the benefit of the member countries of SELA, both individually and collectively. Within the framework of project RLA/87/019 ("Support for Trade Development and Trade Negotiations"), funded by UNDP and executed by UNCTAD in co-operation with ECLAC, various joint projects have been undertaken with SELA on issues of particular interest to Latin American and

Caribbean countries in the areas of the international trading system, multilateral trade negotiations and services.

35. On the question of services, with respect to SELA the work programme provides for the examination of the various services sectors at the expert level through meetings aimed at identifying the main elements for regional policy development in this area. It was agreed that, taking into account the positive results obtained through the joint work undertaken in 1989, such work in this area should continue into 1990. The services sectors identified for these studies are insurance, professional services and tourism.

36. In addition, a Workshop of Specialists on Technology Policies was organized in Caracas from 4 to 8 June 1990 by the UNCTAD secretariat and PRODEC (Programme for Development Co-operation, Helsinki School of Economics), in co-operation with SELA and the Board of the Cartagena Agreement (JUNAC). The event was hosted by the National Council for Scientific and Technological Research (CONICIT), Venezuela, and financed by the Government of Finland.

37. Finally, UNCTAD provided support to SELA in the preparation of a document on the purchasing power of Latin America and the Caribbean and its micro-economic dimensions in relation to the United States of America, as a follow-up to the joint activities in this field in recent years.

38. FAO participated in the 1989 annual meeting of the Latin American Council of SELA, held in Colombia. Mutual consultations have taken place with the Executive Secretary of CADESCA regarding complementary activities, and assistance was given to this Committee in activities aimed at improving the urban food supply in Central America.

39. The secretariat of the FAO Commission on Plant Genetic Resources has set up contacts with the interim secretariat of the Action Committee on Latin American Co-operation and Consultation on Plant Genetic Resources (CARFIT) regarding possible joint activities. Assistance was also given in the preparation of the work plan of the Action Committee and in the organization of the CARFIT meeting (1989), and financial support was furnished for two training courses (Costa Rica and Peru) held in 1989.

40. Technical advice was provided to the meeting of SELA, the Latin American Fisheries Development Organization (OLDEPESCA), UNDP and TCDC on Aquaculture Co-operation Regional Programming, held in Mexico in 1989. More than 110 co-operation activities involving the exchange of experts, training, joint research projects and exchange of species were agreed among participants from 20 countries of the region.

41. In addition to its participation in meetings of the Latin American Council and Action Committees, FAO attended the First Meeting of Organizations on Proposals for Integrated Social Policies vis-à-vis the Macro-economic Adjustments in the Latin American and Caribbean Region, held in Caracas from 11 to 13 June 1990.

III. CONCLUSIONS

42. As may be seen from the above summary, co-operation between the United Nations system and the Latin American Economic System in the period covered by the present report has become stronger and broader in scope. The trend noted in the previous report towards incorporating this co-operation into agreements and conventions has continued. A number of different organizations, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system which have not yet initiated co-operative activities with SELA have expressed their willingness to explore ways of doing so in the near future.

43. As can be seen in the report, an essential aspect of this work is being carried out through co-operation between ECLAC and SELA, which share various action areas, and the regional dimension of their activities will in turn lead to complementary efforts.

44. With regard to the request, contained in General Assembly resolution 44/4, that the Secretary-General promote, in close co-operation with the Permanent Secretary of the Latin American Economic System, the holding of a meeting in 1990 between their respective secretariats with the aim of identifying those areas in which it will be possible to broaden co-operation, it should be noted that a number of working meetings were held in 1990 between SELA and United Nations organizations, programmes and agencies, and consultations are being held to establish the date and place of a more general meeting, to which all the organizations of the United Nations system will be invited.

45. With respect to the General Assembly's request, in the same resolution, that the United Nations Secretary-General and the Permanent Secretary of SELA initiate consultations for the purpose of drafting an agreement of co-operation between the two bodies, consultations have been initiated to fulfil this objective.

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18 September 1990

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Forty-fifth session
Item 129 of the provisional agenda*

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 18 September 1990 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

At present, seven Member States are in arrears in accordance with Article 19 of the Charter, which states as follows:

> "A Member of the United Nations which is in arrears in the payment of its financial contributions to the Organization shall have no vote in the General Assembly if the amount of its arrears equals or exceeds the amount of the contributions due from it for the preceding two full years. The General Assembly may, nevertheless, permit such a Member to vote if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the Member."

The minimum payments necessary to reduce the amounts owed by those Member States on their contributions so that they remain below the gross amount owed for the preceding two full years (1988-1989) are the following:

	US dollars
Dominican Republic	231 000
Equatorial Guinea	62 400
Guatemala	99 300
Liberia	65 900
Sao Tome and Principe	73 400
Sierra Leone	55 400
South Africa	39 203 700

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

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* A/45/150 and Corr.1.

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A/45/515/Add.1
25 September 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

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Agenda item 125

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 25 September 1990 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to my letter dated 18 September 1990 (A/45/515), I have the honour to inform you that Guatemala has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

90-23940 2321a (E)

UNITED
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A/45/515/Add.2
2 October 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 125

SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 2 October 1990 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to my letters dated 18 and 25 September 1990 (A/45/515 and Add.1), I have the honour to inform you that Sierra Leone has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

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UNITED
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8 October 1990

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SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Letter dated 8 October 1990 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly

With reference to my letters dated 18 and 25 September and 2 October 1990 (A/45/515 and Add.1 and 2), I have the honour to inform you that the Dominican Republic has made the necessary payment to reduce its arrears below the amount specified in Article 19 of the Charter.

(Signed) Javier PEREZ DE CUELLAR
Secretary-General

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